



# Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.

Overseer's House • 15 Walnut St. • Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-2109

TZB-081E

March 30, 2008

Michael P. Anderson, P.E., Project Director  
Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Environmental Review  
660 White Plains Road, #340  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

RE: Tappan Zee Bridge Potential Effects on the Old Croton Aqueduct

Mr. Anderson:

The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct (FOCA) is a private not-for-profit organization of volunteers formed to help protect and preserve the Old Croton Aqueduct. FOCA works to raise public awareness of this National Historic Landmark structure and the trail that runs along its surface. FOCA appreciates the efforts that the design team has devoted to discussing the design alternatives with us and the opportunity to comment.

While we are pleased that it appears that the most likely scenarios would not adversely affect the Old Croton Aqueduct, we would point out that these outcomes are not assured. Some of the alternatives certainly would have potential adverse effects to the Old Croton Aqueduct. For this reason we would like to know if a Section 106 process is anticipated, and if it is we request Consulting Party status. Items particularly likely to affect the Aqueduct would be highway re-grading, bus or light rail lines at the surface, and above grade stations and/or parking areas. Technical issues such as vibration and movement should also be considered.

We have mentioned to your design team that FOCA advocates construction of a pedestrian bridge over I-287 along the line of the Aqueduct to restore the continuity of the trail. A pedestrian bridge there would provide a safe walking route through the southern part of the village of Tarrytown.

Currently trail users must leave the Aqueduct trail and walk along a busy stretch of Route 9 that has entrances and exits from I-287, major intersections and numerous uncontrolled vehicle entrances to businesses and parking lots. Motorists here tend to have a highway mindset. It is neither a pleasant nor pedestrian-friendly walk past this section.

Another benefit of a pedestrian bridge would be to reconnect two beautiful sections of Aqueduct trail that are currently unused. On the south the trail dead ends at the I-287 sound barrier, and on the north there is an overgrown section of trail between Route 119 and I-287. The portion of Aqueduct on the south has a fine stone-faced embankment.

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Also, the section of Aqueduct that crosses beneath I-287 has an original drainage culvert that seems likely to have been directed into a storm sewer.

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FOCA looks forward to working with you as the Tappan Zee Bridge issues move ahead toward resolution.

Very Truly Yours,

FRIENDS OF THE OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT



Robert J. Kornfeld, Jr. AIA  
Vice President

CC: Mavis Cain  
Alix Schnee  
Ruth Pierpont